(b) whether it is a fact that such material is being regularly sold in the market of Ludhiana since a very long time;

(c) if so, what action has been taken to stop this illegal sale of fibre; and

(d) what are the reasons for which the parties who are importing this material as 'Actual Users' against advance licence are not being taken to task for violating the rules in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Some cases of abuse of imported polyester staple fibre against advance licences have come to notice.

(b) Government have no such information.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Aprropriate action has been taken wherever violation of condition of the licence has come to notice.

**Manufacture of bullet-proof vests**

1621. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what efforts have been made to manufacture bullet-proof vests in India; and

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of companies have sent proposals to Government for indigenous manufacture of such vests, if so, what action has been or is being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Bureau of Police Research and Development under the Ministry of Home Affairs have been directed to make efforts to indigenise the manufacture of bullet-proof vests. They are contacting various Departments of the Government dealing with the technology on the subject, to examine the possibility of mass production of the basic fibre needed for fabrication of the bullet-proof vests. They are also examining the offers made by various private firms for indegenous manufacture of this item. The samples offered are evaluated to ascertain whether they meet the required specifications and whether the firms can undertake mass production.

**Need for protection of forests**

1622. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a recent news report captioned 'Need to create an awareness on the benefits of forests';

(b) whether it is a fact that a large area of forests is eroded every year due to increasing demand from the growing population for roads and other Similar reasons;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to bring awareness among the people about the benefits accrued from the forests; and

(d) if so, what is the programme of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c) The forests are under severe pressure due to increasing demand for forest products from the rising population. The Department has launched a National Environment Awareness Campaign to create awareness on protection of environment and forests at all levels. The Department also has a scheme on Environment Education and Training to

support seminars, workshops, training programmes, exhibitions, essay and painting competitions, nature study tours, establishment of eco-clubs in schools and colleges, production and distribution of education material etc. In these endeavours, the Department is assisted by two of its institutions namely Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, and the National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi, and others.

**Interpretation of NIT Award**

1623. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:
SHRI M. A. BABY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the reasons for which his Ministry is not constituting National Industrial Tribunal for interpretation of the NIT Award No. NTB 1 of 1985 although failure report was received by the Ministry in November, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): The matter is under consideration.

**Export of Tea to Iran**

1624. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:
DR. R. K. PODDAR:
SHRI M. A. BABY:
SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tea Board overruled the objection of the Calcutta Customs by clearing export of tea to Iran at a lower prices resulting in a loss of over Rs. 10 crores in foreign exchange to the country;

(b) if so, the persons responsible therefor in the Board;

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) whether any action is contemplated against the persons involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Supply of arms to South Africa by NATO Allies**

1625. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the NATO allies including France are sending arms to South Africa in violation of 1977 International Arms Embargo;

(b) whether the Indian Government have made any protest to the NATO allies along with Switzerland in this regard; and

(c) if so, when the reaction of the Indian Government was despatched to those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government are aware of such reports.

(b) and (c) Our opposition to such violations is well known and has been reiterated from time to time in various international fora.

**Indian National working in Lebanon**

1626. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian workers who are working in various fields in Lebanon are work-